

Saturday Morning, Aug. 19, 1865.

## Political-Social Apathy.

Assuming that Governor Perry has rightly exercised his authority, in calling for an election of members to a Convention, to which it will be allotted to reorganize the State and for a general revision of the Constitution, then it occurs to us that a most profound and apathetic indifference prevails throughout the State, in regard to this object. Whether it is that the effect of the late revolution in our affairs has had the effect of stunning the popular mind—whether it is that the necessities of the household and the individual have put all political objects entirely out of the people's head—or whether all sympathy with politics, of whatever kind, has been crushed out by the overthrow of the fondly entertained political faith of fifty years—it matters not; the fact is, nevertheless, unquestionable, that, so far as we have seen, the public mind takes but little interest in any politics, and exhibits no sort of activity or even sensibility in respect to an election which is to hold, within its results, an entirely new political organization for the country. On former occasions, in a matter so vitally interesting, public meetings would have been held at all the court houses, on sale or other public days, and there would probably have been a popular nomination of a ticket including the preferred names of the community. At present, if an election takes place at all, it is destined to be a scrub race. There are really no candidates—no parties seek representatives—and it is very unlikely that many votes will be taken. The parties elected may or may not be good men and true. They are just as likely to be worthless. All seem indifferent to the result. The question occurs to us, "Is this right or wise?" If our people are to live in this country, then it behooves them to see that the political power of the country does not fall into the hands of the vicious or the worthless. The members of the seceding Convention, the members of the Confederate Congress and of the State Legislatures, are, we believe, excluded from place in the Convention. This exclusion operates seriously against the picked men of this country. It denies us the use of many of our finest minds. Can we find substitutes for these? Are there not men to be found, in all the districts, not liable to objection, who are yet capable of the duties and to be trusted in the situation? And is it not the duty of the people to seek out such men, in every precinct, and assure themselves of the best capacities for legislation that the country may still possess? Such is our opinion. We should not show a reckless disregard of the future, because of the misfortunes and disappointments of the past.

Let our people, therefore, in all the districts, proceed promptly and unitedly, to an examination into their social and intellectual resources, in order to their employment in the organization of the State anew, and to the future legislation under it. We need, in the Convention especially, the best legal and judicial minds—men conversant with all the nice discriminations of law—conversant with political definitions and constitutions, and capable of weighing well the import of every sentence which is uttered. The Government of the United States can only require of us a Republican form of Constitution, and the model for this is to be found in the Constitutions of those States, whose characteristics, policy and people, most nearly resemble our own.

In the choice of these men, while we may prefer many who are excluded by reason of the exceptions made in the Presidential proclamations of amnesty, let us not insist upon them; but, avoiding all occasions for evil, let us turn to others of our citizens, such as we think, from their general moral, high tone, known virtues and superior intellect, may be relied upon for the duty, and cast our votes for them with all possible unanimity. To do this, we think that primary meetings might be held here and there,

preliminary to a general meeting of the citizens of the District in which the nomination might be made unanimous. Columbia, as the capital of the State, and Richland District, of which she is also the capital, should properly lead in the matter, and inaugurate for all the districts a proper precedent, in which the general apathy, now prevailing over all, shall be disturbed and neutralized by fresh currents of mental electricity, from which we may hope purification in the end.

We are assuming that we are to live in this country, and that our children are still to possess it. With those who decide otherwise, we have nothing to do or say. But with all others—with all those who either cannot or will not leave the country, and propose to cast their fortunes in it for good or evil; then our argument and entreaty should prevail against the apathy which shows them indifferent to the sort of Government under which they are to exist. There are no longer State rights. The States are mere corporations. The authority of the United States Government is paramount. There is no other sovereignty; and all that remains for us is to accommodate ourselves to the new condition of things, or quit the country. It is useless to lament the past—the wreck of favorite political ideas, or the loss of fortune. The one we cannot restore; the latter we may repair. With all those who design or desire to do so, it is the obvious duty to take such active part in the work of re-organization as will save us from the blunders of inebriety or the treacheries of malice. We must endeavor to make the Constitution of South Carolina as tolerable as it may be made under the circumstances of the case.

We have spoken of those who are meditating their departure from the country. On this subject, it might be sufficient to refer all such to the excellent letter of Wade Hampton recently published in this journal. But something may be added to this letter. Whether do our discontented friends propose to go? Where is the refuge? To the Mexican States? That region will be one of anarchy for the next sixty years; which is the limit we assign for the duration of any existing American organization. But they talk of Cuba and Brazil, having the notion that, as slave States, they will enjoy themselves in an atmosphere which many certainly appeals to their sympathies than any other. But is it not apparent that the same fate which has pursued them here, as proprietors of slaves, will dog their steps wherever they go, if in a slave country? The same strife, struggle, war—massacre, perhaps—under the outside pressure of all the great nations of the world, will pursue them to Cuba and Brazil. The dogged pride of the Spaniard will be forced to succumb under it; the feeble empire of Brazil will bow to the decree which has freed the Africans in our more powerful States of the South. The fanaticism of the age, having subsidized or silenced all other parties, now supported by the physical forces of the great European States, and no longer checked—nay, sanctioned by the active support of the United States—will emancipate the African from labor in all countries—not from slavery, but labor. And there will be no rest, no peace, suffered to those countries, no matter how remote, no matter under what dynasty, where the African is still coerced to obey the elementary law of God and civilization. Our people can find refuge neither in Mexico, nor in Cuba, nor in Brazil. Ireland and Australia are more eligible places of retreat, and it is not unreasonable to believe that grants of lands, in both these regions, may be had for Southern colonists from the Government of Great Britain. Let us hug to our souls none of these delusions. Let us, for Heaven's sake and man's peace, have no life-continued struggle about the status of the negro. Let our sons be taught to work out their own deliverance independently, and without regard to any employment of labor, or art, external to themselves, their own souls and muscles.

The Charleston *Daily News* commences its career with commendable spirit. The appearance of the paper, as we have already said, is good; the contents are various, and the editorial pen seems to flow with equal freedom and intelligence. We extract some items from its columns, which will be found scattered about through ours.

An ingenious Frenchman has invented a respirator by which a man can take his stock of pure air into the midst of noxious vapors, and come out all right.

Dilated pupils—college graduates.

## Trade With the South.

Southern merchants are coming to the North to resume their relations with importers, and to make arrangements for the great business that must be done in the vast regions that have been for four years so much secluded from the world of trade. Some of them come prepared to pay off old scores before they make new. A few are ready to pay 100 cents on a dollar; but by far the larger part of them must make a compromise with their creditors, or they cannot adjust their accounts. As a general thing they find our merchants ready to meet them in a liberal spirit, and to accept the most favorable terms for the debtor. Now and then the pertinacity with which one merchant holds out and refuses to accept anything less than the face of the note with interest, puts a dead lock upon a settlement, and the disappointed man is obliged to give up in despair.

It is the dictate of sound policy to be liberal and easy in relation to the past and cautious for the future. Before the war, the system of giving long credit for large amounts had been carried to an extreme in the highest degree injurious to buyer and seller. Now is the time to insist on a safer policy. Where the basis of integrity and past success is well laid, our merchants will make it their interest to help the Southern dealer to get on his feet again as soon as possible. It was pleasant to see, as we did the other day, a letter from South Carolina containing an order for goods, with the cash enclosed—one greenback of the \$1,000 denomination, and other funds, to pay for the whole amount ordered.

The North has made money by the war. The South has lost nearly everything. If we let the past go, and begin anew in a liberal spirit, insisting on short credits and prompt payment, we shall soon see the South reviving and sending her orders here with the greatest possible freedom. The following will give some idea of what is likely to be wanted. If one State needs all these things, what will the whole South want, and want immediately? In an editorial review of the condition and wants of the State of North Carolina, the *Newbern Times* says:

"During the next twelve months the State will want at least two hundred thousand dollars worth of ploughs, and as many more of the various implements necessary for successful farming. To these add one hundred thousand more for carriages, wagons, &c. Then it will require fifty thousand to supply wooden ware, such as tubs, buckets, pails, barrels, &c., and fifty thousand more to supply candles and soap; while two hundred thousand will hardly be sufficient to furnish shoes for our population. Thus it will be seen that we expend nearly a million of dollars for these few articles, whereas they should be manufactured here, and the money kept at home. This estimate, we are aware, falls far below the true figure, but in the absence of necessary data, we use these numbers in order to bring the subject before the minds of our readers in a practical form."

[*New York Observer*, July 27.]

GEORGIA AFFAIRS.—Gen. H. Cobb. —The *Augusta Chronicle* notices the presence of Gen. Howell Cobb in that city, and says: "In a conversation with the General, he expressed a great desire to have all matters now in agitation settled at once. The issues which have lately convulsed this country he considers forever disposed of. Slavery, he says, can never be resurrected in any shape. Matters which have passed should be numbered among the things that were, and should not be dragged into the present, thereby creating discord and trammeling the movements of those who are doing all they can to settle affairs." The same paper speaks of the arrival in town of ex-Gov. Brown, and says: "Gov. Brown speaks hopefully of the future, and thinks it would be well for the Convention to declare slavery at an end in Georgia without excitement or discussion. He regards the question of secession as settled by the result of the war, and that any further agitation on that and kindred topics should be studiously avoided."

The *New York Post* says, "We have favored and still favor the substitution of civil for military government for all the States lately in rebellion. We believe it is better that the people of each State shall have the responsibility thrown upon them of re-establishing law and order and liberty in their own communities. But they ought clearly to understand that if they refuse or are unable to do this duty, they will compel the General Government to step in and do it for them." This doesn't seem unreasonable.

How to correct mistakes in whiskey—rectify it.

The most extraordinary carnival of crime is now in full blast at the North, of which we ever remember to have heard or read. A volume of the *Newgate calendar* might be culled from the gigantic crimes which have been perpetrated there in the last three weeks. In that time, at least six horrible cases of rape have occurred, accompanied in three instances with the murder of the victims—one occurring in sight of the church-spires of Boston—the murderers escaping. Within that time two sons have killed their parents, one butchering his mother and sister, in order that he might get money enough to marry upon, and the other shot his father in heat of blood. Three prominent bank officials have robbed their banks of vast amounts, one escaping to France, and there becoming a madman, another committing suicide in his cell in New York, a few nights since, and the last accuses a frail woman as the cause of his fall. To these we may add innumerable crimes of less magnitude, such as counterfeiters of fractional currency and petroleum swindlers. These crimes have as yet in very few instances been traced to returned soldiers. They, poor fellows, seem, in a great many instances, to have found their wives not of the patient, *Phoebe* type, if forty divorce suits, instituted in a single county by returned soldiers, mean anything.

[*New York News*.]

CONFISCATION IN LOUISIANA.—There has been a good deal of movement in real estate this week, including several large secession and confiscation sales. Very good prices have been realized except in confiscated property. Many fears are entertained in regard to titles, which may be materially affected by the march of events and the decisions of the Supreme Court. The property of John Slidell, comprising 812 lots and squares of ground, with stores, dwelling-houses and a banking house, were sold for \$190,410. Before the war it was estimated at \$800,000. Had the war not taken place, it is estimated that Mr. Slidell would have been worth \$2,000,000. As it was, when the war broke out, he sold his Northern property pretty well to Mr. Belmont for Louisiana bonds, which afterwards largely advanced, and considerable of Southern property was also well disposed of. In the case of the recent sales there were powerful intervenors: who claim under mortgages the full value of the property, and will doubtless carry their claims up to the Supreme Court. Very little, in fact, will be realized to the Government of these confiscation sales. They are most of them encumbered by just claims which will be doubtlessly allowed. In the case of Mr. Slidell's intervenors, fraud is charged, and the review will depend upon the facts.

[*New Orleans Letter*.]

CONFEDERATE EXILES IN MEXICO.—The *Gulfport News* thus speaks of the final disposition of the Confederates who followed Gens. Smith, Magruder and others into Mexico:

"On arriving at Monterey, the troops were discharged, and both officers and men scattered in every direction, the soldiers all engaging in their respective trades wherever they could find employment, having made up their minds never to return to their homes in the United States. Most of the officers had left Monterey for different destinations.

"Gen. Magruder set out for Europe by way of Vera Cruz, intending to join his family, now somewhere on the Rhine. Gen. E. Kirby Smith, with two or three others, had started for the city of Mexico, and from thence Gen. Smith intended to go to Havana, to join his wife in that city. Gen. Preston was about to proceed to Halifax, where his family have resided since their banishment from Kentucky, two or three years ago. Gen. Rinchman has his family with him in Monterey, and intends residing there for the present. Gen. Price is preparing to go to Rio Janeiro, where he expects to meet his family and to make his future residence. None of them ever expect to return to their former homes in the United States."

THE CONDITION OF HON. A. H. STEPHENS.—We are pleased to learn that the rigid rules prohibiting Mr. Stephens from writing or receiving letters, even upon personal affairs, have been relaxed. We saw a letter from him this week, dated from his prison at Fort Warren, to a friend in this city, from which we learn that Mr. Stephens is in very bad health. He is seriously and painfully afflicted with rheumatism, doubtless caused by the damp walls of a fortress upon a constitution naturally delicate, and which has been enfeebled by many years of continued illness. The position of Mr. Stephens appeals with peculiar force to every humane and generous impulse.—*N. Y. Day Book*.

## Local Items.

To insure insertion, advertisements are requested to equal in their notices to the *Advertiser* at 10 o'clock p. m.

ERRATA.—The *Advertiser*.—The deal of a printing office is a proverbial fondness charged with seven devils—in all probability the very same lot of devils which entered the swine and rushed with them over the steep into drowning water. They exercise us as grievously as Mephistopheles exercised the German Faust. They play old Harry with the types, and, chasing Old Nick, they do not heed the nets in two types. Our editorial yesterday was dreadfully disgraced by that misadventure. Thus, instead of Cancer, they printed Cancer; which is no sign in our or any other zodiac. In a dogged ditch, they left out a necessary monosyllable. Speaking to Col. Shiver, we said:

"And when he next hath ice to spare, May we be suffered still to share." The "ice" was unluckily left out. Two lines were transposed, which should have read thus: "We overthrew the altars of Capricorn and Cancer—we demolished the goat; we took the claws from the crab. Of the former, we made mutton, and of the latter a rare salad." &c. In the local department, a paragraph relating to the Charleston College, the name of Mr. Ephraim Baynard is horribly transcribed into something which is as little English as Hebrew. There are other errors of the typographical devil, which it is next to impossible to pursue through all his sinuosities of error. The reader must seek to help us in elucidating the typical mysteries and extracting sense and grammar from our hieroglyphics. We must not omit, also, a correction in the selected poem on cotton. Line seven, from the top, change the word "velocity" to "reflexivity," and you will have it right. The line should then read thus:

"Lost all *velocity*, and soon became."

We are the more particular in this connection, as we regarded the piece as one containing a sound Southern argument, and well fitted for declamation in a Southern school.

We see new reasons, momentarily, in the arrival of new goods for our Columbia merchants; why such terrible reports of mortality, diseases, epidemics, and all that sort of thing should be current in the neighboring country. Here, now, is Mr. Melvin M. Cohen, one of the fleet of our merchants to "hang his banner on the outward wall," with a monstrous supply, absolutely elephantine, of good things for our market. Here, in one day, he receives seven wagons of merchandise, from the city of Charleston. See his long-headed advertisement in the *Phoenix* of today. He has every thing in the shape of pascals and soars, solids and liquids, spicy and sugary, hot and cool, comforting and comfortable, for all winds and weather. You know what will be the result. There will not be a shopkeeper in Columbia, who will not take the alarm, and do likewise. Let there be no fears, on the part of the members of the Convention, that there will be enough in Columbia to eat and drink and wear for the next six months. The supply is commensurate to every possible demand. Nay, more! We almost dread that it will induce an enormous appetite on the part of consumers; and the effect of these good things will be that our Convention and Legislature will linger so long in session that the good wives of the country will send after them. Wives will not permit that their husbands shall exhaust themselves in the business of legislation. Mr. Melvin M. Cohen, with his grand variety of creature comforts, will be presented to the grand jury as an invader of female and domestic rights.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS.—Attention is called to the following advertisements, which are published for the first time this morning:

P. Cantwell—Goshen Butte.  
James Cantwell—Commission Merchant.  
Melvin M. Cohen—Choice Goods.  
White & Thompson—Male Academy.  
A. R. Phillips—New Goods.  
Wm. Martin—Carriage or Wagon to Hire.  
Apply at this office—Estray Horse.  
Extra Communication Richard Lodge.

"BLIND TOM."—The case of "Blind Tom," the musical negro, has been decided at Cincinnati, by Judge Woodruff. The claimant, Tabb's Gross, who sued out the writ of *habeas corpus* on the plea that he had been appointed guardian of Tom, in Floyd County, Indiana, is declared to have no rights as such—the boy not being a resident of that State. Bethune, the former owner, having exhibited a written contract, and there being no evidence of unkind treatment, it is plain that the boy is in his care, whether the document is valid or not. The boy was far away from his home, and therefore is only entitled to temporary relief in Ohio, being liable to be sent out of the State as a pauper to the place where he is a legal resident. The Judge accordingly decided that from a private examination of his mental condition he possessed sufficient judgment to make choice of his own custodian. That choice being to remain with Mr. Bethune, he ordered that he be remanded accordingly to his charge, with a right to change his guardianship whenever a proper occasion might require.

Mr. Pratt, a Republican member of the Connecticut Legislature, declared that Connecticut is a "sovereign State"—that she alone has the right to say who shall or shall not vote in her elections—and that no law of Congress can interfere in the matter.